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excerpts from accounts by English merchants of 1778 and about 1890, respectively, and the English consul in the Philippines in 1878. More complete bibliographical details would have enhanced the value of the book for historical students, and Mr. Craig might profitably have annotated a trifle more widely. The items were all chosen because they show the more pleasing elements of Philippine life and character, and the book as a whole is an attempt to do justice to the Filipino by setting the comments of foreigners against those of many Spaniards, who have furnished in general the criterion by which the Philippines and their peoples have been judged.

JAMES A. ROBERTSON

Middle group of American historians. By John Spencer Bassett, Ph.D., LL.D. (New York: Macmillan company, 1917. 324 p. \$2.00 net)

In his admirable sketch of early history writing and history writers in this country, Mr. Bassett has been fortunate in striking upon a style of presentation at once lucid and attractive. This is especially noticeable in the first and last chapters where the subject matter has no intrinsic interest to the average reader. In this part of the work the author has been successful in bringing into juxtaposition a considerable number of scattered fragments and using them effectively in his discussion. In this he recalls that extremely interesting work on American literature by Moses Coit Tyler. Mr. Bassett shows the same ability to run through a rather dry category of names and, by felicitous reference and discriminating phrase, to keep up the interest of the reader.

In his handling of the work of Sparks, Bancroft, Prescott, Motley, and Force, the author has been able to give us some new impressions of the period in which these historians worked and he has also left us with a distinct impression of each writer. There is none of that laudatory sameness so often encountered in ordinary biographies which blurs down the distinctive character of a man. We are left in no doubt as to the quality of scholarship and the sharp individualism that separates Sparks from Bancroft and both of them from Force. The author has sketched with considerable skill, also, the literary careers of these men, not omitting the various publishing ventures, both profitable and otherwise, on which they embarked. Altogether the volume has a personal touch and glimpses into the intimate life of these historians hardly to be anticipated from its title. It is to be hoped that this work will not be the last of the series and that the author will pursue his studies into the later field of history writing in this country.